



UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE
FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony in Support of
House Bill 5517: An Act Concerning Cost-sharing for Prescription Drugs
Submitted by Lynne Ide, Director of Program & Policy
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut
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We support House Bill 5517: An Act Concerning Cost-Sharing for Prescription Drugs.

It is no secret that pharmaceutical prices are a concern for everyone—individuals, insurers, and governments. This bill helps to protect consumers by limiting their cost-sharing to \$100 for a 30-day supply of a prescription drug. It makes it more likely that consumers will be able to follow doctors' orders and take their medication. Measures such as this would help individuals afford medications that can help prevent more acute and expensive conditions later. Those with chronic conditions also need affordable access to prescriptions that improve their health and quality of life. No matter how high a deductible a consumer has, this cap is an important protection for consumers, and one step towards making health care more affordable.

The additional proposed restriction, to disallow placing all prescription drugs in a given class in the highest cost-sharing tier of a tiered formulary, is another important consumer protection. Consumers should have reasonable options to use lower-cost, but equally effective, medications. This provision also protects against a formulary that is designed against patients with costly illnesses.

Taken together, these two proposals are important consumer-friendly measures that help make health care affordable, as well more equitable for those who need access to appropriate medications in order to maintain their health.

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut (UHCF) is an independent, nonprofit foundation working to shape our state's health care system to provide quality, accessible, affordable care and promote good health for all state residents. We work with a diverse array of partner organizations, as well as with individual consumers from throughout Connecticut.